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# Ruth Hardy's Red Cedar Wildflower Nursery

Falls Village, Conn.

Spring

and

Fall

1954

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U.S. Department of Agriculture



# Ruth Hardy's Red Cedar Wildflower Nursery

Falls Village, Conn.

RUTH HARDY - *Horticulturist & Consultant*  
*South Canaan Road, U.S. Route 7*

To

all my old customers and new, my aim is conservation. When I know of an area being devastated by steam shovels and bulldozers I try to save some of the many wild plants being destroyed, by bringing them into the nursery for propagation.

- Visitors are welcome -

A nursery where you may see wild flowers and ferns growing in their native habitats. Invitations to Garden groups, Girl and Boy Scout groups. A small fee for conducted tours.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

No order less than \$2.00. Each order personally packed. Stock prepaid east of Miss. river. Will replace stock without charge that is not in good condition, provided you let me know at once. A few items due to weight and size will ship Express Collect. Payment in full except to established customers.

# Wildflowers

**Anemone, False Rue** *Anemone thalictroides*  
Dainty leaves, 3-6 inches tall. White flowers, one of early spring blossomers. Easily grown, partial shade. Tiny bulbs, plant shallow.

**Arbutus** *Epigaea repens*

We have only a very limited supply of this beautiful and famous wildflower. Since few people have luck growing it, and it requires acid soil, we hope you won't order it unless you have the proper habitat. Partial shade is best. Don't permit to dry out the first season. Only one plant to a customer. \$1.00 each.

**Baneberry, Red** *Actaea rubra*

White feathery blossom cluster in May, coral red, oval berries; 2-3 feet. Shade or partial shade, damp or dry sites.

**Baneberry, White** *Actaea alba*

Similar to red, as to foliage, but berries white, likened to doll's eyes. Same site conditions and size as the red baneberry, but blooms a little later. Poisonous to eat.

**Bishop's Cap, Mitrewort** *Mitella diphylla*

Pencil-thin flower stalks with tiny cap-shaped blossoms. April to May, 8-16 in. Good ground cover and rock garden plant. Easy to Grow.

**Bloodroot** *Sanguinaria canadensis*

Snow-white large flowers with golden centers in spring; plant 8 in. tall. Heart-shaped leaves persist all summer. Dry, to slightly moist neutral soil, shade.

## Bluebells of Scotland

*Campanula rotundifolia*

Grows almost anywhere, very hardy, easy to raise. Dainty, very attractive little blue bells in late summer. 1-1½ ft. tall. Prefers sun.

## Bonset, Thoroughwort

*Eupatorium perfoliatum*

Wet soil plant, 2-4 ft. tall. White terminal blossoms in August and September.

## Canada Mayflower *Maianthemum canadense*

A small shade loving plant. The leaves are usually heart-shaped at the base, the flowers are white, on small spikes which look feathery. The attractive berries are yellowish-white spotted with brown from Aug. to Sept., turning a translucent rich red Sept. to Oct. Prefer slightly acid soil.

## Cardinal Flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*

The brightest red in nature are these blossoms, Aug. to Sept. Prefers damp soil and sun, but will grow on drier, shadier sites. 2-4 ft. tall. Fertilized by humming birds. Seed and rootstock regeneration.

## Clintonia, Bluebeard *Clintonia borealis*

Leaves 5 to 8 in., often flat on ground, shiny, resemble showy orchis leaves. Blossoms yellow, in terminal cluster 6 to 16 in. above ground, bell-shaped, ¾ in. long, in June. Striking true blue berries by late summer. Shade. Good fern companion.

**Cohosh, Blue** *Caulophyllum thalictroides*

Compound leaf at top of long stem, 1-3 ft. tall. Small yellow flowers; intensely blue berries by late summer. Shade. Good fern companion.

**Columbine, Wild** *Aquilegia canadensis*

Excellent rock garden plant, but grows almost anywhere. Red and yellow spurred flowers May to June, stay in blossom several weeks. 1-1½ ft. 35¢ each

**Cress, Spring** *Cardamine bulbosa*

White to pinkish blossoms, ½ inch or more wide, Small round leaves near the ground, narrow leaves on stem. 6 to 16 in. high. Grows in moist meadows or wet open woodlands. Has a bulbous root. Blossoms Apr. to May.

**Dutchman's Breeches** *Dicentra cucullaria*

A dainty spring wildflower. Neutral soil, 4 to 7 inches high.

**Foamflower, False Mitrewort**

*Tiarella cordifolia*

Attractive ground cover for shady places. Runner roots, leaves maple-shaped, blossoms in white feathery spikes from May to June. Leaves 4 to 8 in. high, blossom spikes 4 to 6 in. higher. 25¢ each

**Forget-me-not** *Myosotis scorpioides*

This garden escape is now considered a wild flower of our swamps and streams. The blossoms are ¼ in. broad on loose, curving racemes, light blue with yellow eyes from May to July. Requires moist soil and sun.

**Gentian, Bottle***Gentiana andrewsii*

Several bottle-shaped, intense blue flowers in terminal and leaf-base clusters in late summer. Perennial. Damp, partial shade, also like sun if soil wet. 12-18 in. tall.

**Ginger, Wild***Asarum canadense*

Heart-shaped leaf, with odd brown-purple blossoms close to the soil in May. Ginger odor when handled. Moist shade. 30¢ each

**Globeflower***Trollius laxus*

This is one of the less common wildflowers. Its blossoms look like clusters of small yellow tulips. The plant must have wet soil and partial shade. Do not expect it to live in any other habitat. 50¢ each

**Goldthread***Coptis trifolia*

The shiny, dark green, evergreen leaves, 1 to 2 in. broad, close to the ground, form an attractive ground cover in shady sites with acid soil. Small white flowers on very slender stems, 3 to 6 in. high, June to July. Creeping, fine, gold-colored roots.

**Grass of Parnassus** *Parnassia caroliniana*

Waxy leaves, white flower with green veins, mid to late summer. Damp soil in open sun. 6-10 inches. 40¢ each

**Hepatica, Round-leaved** *Hepatica triloba*

Earliest flower of spring. Leaves persist in winter, liver-lobe shaped. Good as rock garden or indoor terrarium plants. 3-6 in. Lavender to blue 40¢ each

**Hepatica, Sharp-leaved** *Hepatica acutiloba*

Similar to Round-leaved Hepatica, but leaves have sharp points, and the blossoms are light lilac to white.

<b>Herb Robert</b>	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Perennial. Ornamental leaves with ruddy stems, aromatic. Small pink blossoms persistent through summer. Partial shade, damp to dry sites or rocks but not open sun.	
<b>Iris, Blue Flag</b>	<i>Iris versicolor</i>
Damp or moist ground, 2-3 ft. Rich blue flowers in June. Roots can be divided.	
<b>Iris, Crested Dwarf</b>	<i>Iris cristata</i>
Leaf narrow, tapers at both ends; 4 to 9 in. long, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide. Flowers very light violet, the broad outer divisions crested with 3 raised parallel flutings, the middle one being orange. Likes dry to moist, acid soil, partial shade to full sun. Flowers in May. Attractive in wild garden or rock garden.	
<b>Iris, Lake Dwarf</b>	<i>Iris lacustris</i>
Smaller than the Crested Iris, and narrower leaves. Native to gravelly northern lake shores. Semi-shade to full sun. May.	
<b>Iris, Vernal</b>	<i>Iris verna</i>
A tiny Iris, with grass-like leaves up to 7 in. long. Blossoms violet-blue with orange centers in May. Shade to semi-shade Good in rock gardens.	
<b>Jack-in-the-Pulpit</b>	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>
An interesting hooded plant; a favorite with children. Damp to drier shady spots. Orange-red berries. Try forcing bulbs indoors. Plant them the same as paper narcissus bulbs, in a bowl with stones and water, and add a little soil. They grow about an inch a day once they start. Indoor Jacks make excellent Christmas gifts.	30¢ each

**Joe Pye Weed** *Eupatorium purpureum*

Large, moist soil plant, 3-7 ft. tall, raspberry-red blossoms in top clusters. Open sun, blooms in August.

**Lily, Meadow** *Lilium canadense*

Orange lilies with purple-brown spots inside. One to seven or more blossoms, 2-4 ft. tall. Open sun, moist to drier soil.

**Lobelia, Blue** *Lobelia syphilitica*

Similar to Cardinal Flower in form and growth requirements, but the blossoms are a handsome purplish-blue. July to Sept.

**Marsh Marigold, Cowslip** *Caltha palustris*

Leaves round or kidney-shaped, edible raw or cooked. Blossoms bright yellow, similar to buttercup but larger, from April to May. Moist soil essential, and prefers sun. Good around ponds and in brooks. 30¢ each

**Mayapple, Mandrake** *Podophyllum peltatum*

Umbrella-like leaves form elevated ground carpet. Waxy, white flowers underneath, Apr. to May produce apple-like berry. 1-2 ft.

**New England Aster** *Aster novaeangliae*

A tall, sturdy wild aster with terminal clusters of many-rayed purple blossoms Aug. to Sept. From 2-6 ft. tall, in open sun, neutral to sweet, even poor soil. Good background in cultivated flower garden.

**Rue, Early Meadow** *Thalictrum dioicum*

A dainty, slender plant with scalloped leaves and small greenish-white flowers in terminal clusters, Apr. to May. Similar to Tall Meadow Rue but smaller. Good company for medium-sized ferns. Likes a little shade but will grow in the sun.

**Rue, Tall Meadow** *Thalictrum polygamum*

Misty white flowers, tall slender branches, July to Sept. Prefers damp meadows, but grows almost anywhere. Excellent in with large ferns.

**Saxifrage, Rock** *Saxifraga virginiana*

A small rock plant which likes dry sites. Prefers sun; stands partial shade if dry. Leaves a rosette close to ground. Small white flowers in clusters, stems 3 to 9 inches high.

**Saxifrage, Swamp** *Saxifraga pensylvanica*

Leaves much larger than above species; make interesting cover for wet spots. Flowers greenish-white, not as attractive as above species, stems 12 to 30 in. high. Sun or partial shade.

**Snakeroot, Black** *Cimicifuga racemosa*

A very large and striking woodland plant, excellent to mix with large ferns, or as a background. Compound, sharply-toothed leaves form rather heavy foliage that attains 3 to 7 ft. height. Feathery white flowers 6 to 20 in. branched, wand-like spikes, June to July.

**Solomon's Seal, False** *Smilacina racemosa*

White fluffy blossoms at tip of stem, in May producing white-and-red, then translucent berries. 1-3 ft., shade or sun.

**Solomon's Seal, Giant**

*Polygonatum commutatum*

Very graceful, 2-4 ft. tall, bell-like blossoms pendulous under the leaves in June; large purple-blue berries. Partial shade to sun.

Each 50¢ - 3-9 ; 45¢ ea. - 10-24; 40¢ ea.

**Solomon's Seal, True *Polygonatum biflorum***

Very similar to the Giant variety, but smaller, and likes more shade. 1-2 ft., blooms May to June, dark blue berries in early fall.

**Star Grass, Yellow** *Hypoxis hirsuta*

Grass-like leaves; flower stems arise in the center, 2 to 6 in. high, bearing one to seven deep yellow,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. blossoms. Likes dry soil in sun or semi-shade.

**Trillium, Painted** *Trillium undulatum*

White, with crimson stripe, May to June. 8-16 in. Likes shade and borders of woodlands, and must have acid soil.

(See page 17 on Planting hints 50¢ each

**Trillium, Red Wakerobin** *Trillium erectum*

Leaves broad and abruptly pointed. Flowers a maroon red, petals  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, on a reclining stem, blooming in April to May. Dark red seed pods. Shady sites; prefers damp soil but will grow on upland soil.

**Trillium, Snow** *Trillium grandiflorum*

Blossoms late May to June, white turning to pink. 10-18 in. high, petals 2-3 in. in. long. Moist, partial shade, good neutral garden soil. Excellent in flower borders, occurs in open woodlands.

Prices, except where otherwise noted are:

50¢ each singly

3-9 plants of a kind 45¢ each

10-24 plants of a kind 40¢ each

**Twisted Stalk***Streptopus roseus*

Interesting zig-zag stem, with bell-shaped tiny white to pinkish blossom in June. A handsome red berry for each blossom late summer to early fall. Cold, damp woods. Plant 1½ to 3 ft. tall.

**Violet, Bird-foot***Viola pedata*

The leaves are finely divided. The blossoms are the largest of the violets, from 1 to 1½ in. across; light violet with orange-tipped stamens, May-June. The plant grows from 4 to 10 inches in height and insists upon dry sandy soil and open sun.

**Violet, Canada***Viola canadensis*

One of our tallest violets, sweet-scented, light purple outside, white inside; blossoms a little later than above species. Partial shade to sun; 5-15 in. tall.

**Violet, Downy Yellow***Viola pubescens*

Leaves are downy beneath, golden yellow flowers in May, plant 6-12 in. tall. Dry shady sites, rock gardens.

**Violet, Palmate-leaved***Viola palmata*

Unusually deep lobed leaves for a violet plant. Flowers bright, light violet and fairly large in early summer. Dry ground, shade or sun.

**Violet, Smooth Yellow** *Viola scabriuscula*

Two to four stems from one rootstock. More slender and not quite as tall as the Downy Yellow. Blossoms April to early May, prefers shade.

Each 50¢ - 3-9 ; 45¢ ea. 10-24 40¢ ea.

## Violet, Two-colored Birdfoot

*Viola pedata bicolor*

This handsome violet has light blue upper petals and rich purple lower petals. The blossom is as large as the preceding species. Wants dry soil, preferably sand. Occurs naturally in open sun but tolerates some shade if soil not moist.

## Violet, Yellow Round-leaved

*Viola rotundifolia*

A modest small violet, light yellow, veined with madder purple, April to May. Leaves round to long heart-shaped, about 1 in. broad at blossom time, expanding to 2 to 4 inches and flat on the ground later. Cool, damp ground cover where other things won't grow.

# Ferns

## Beech Fern, Broad

*Dryopteris hexagonoptera*

Winged woodfern. Triangular fronds. Shade or partial shade, damp to dryer sites, neutral soil. Height 12-18 in.

## Beech Fern, Narrow

*Phegopteris polypodioides*

Triangle-shaped fronds, 3 to 10 in. long. Succession of fronds all season, only one frond present at a time. Creeping rootstocks. Bottom pair of pinnae grow downward. and outward. Moist to fairly dry sites; prefers shade, but will grow in sun if not too dry.

Except where noted, prices as follows:

Large-.60¢ea. Med. 45¢ - Small 40¢ ea.

**Bladder, Berry** *Cystopteris bulbifera*  
Brookside, damp shade. Graceful, slender  
fern, 2-3 ft., half reclining.

**Bladder, Fragile,** *Cystopteris fragilis*  
More delicate than above, and about one-  
third in size. Dormant in August. An early  
fern, loves rocks.

**Christmas Fern** *Polystichum acrostichoides*  
Evergreen fronds up to 20 inches long.  
Likes good shade, enough moisture. Plant  
the crowns even with ground surface. In-  
door boxes.

**Cinnamon Fern** *Osmunda cinnamomea*  
One of our largest ferns, attaining 3-5 ft.  
Husky fronds, attractive, cinnamon-colored  
fertile frond arises from center of the  
plant. Excellent background. Shade or  
semi-shade. 60¢ each

**Clinton Fern** *Dryopteris clintoniana*  
An evergreen, preferring shade or partial  
shade. Attains 2-3 ft. Likes slightly acid  
to neutral soil.

**Crested Shield Fern** *Dryopteris cristata*  
Usually found on hummocks in partially  
shaded bogs. 1/3 ft., the sterile fronds  
are evergreen.

**Evergreen Woodfern** *Dryopteris marginalis*  
Leathery, evergreen, dark blue-green. Deep  
shade, likes loose stones in the soil.  
2 ft. tall. Indoor boxes.

Except where noted

Large 60¢ medium 45¢ small 40¢

**Interrupted Fern** *Osmunda claytoniana*

One of our large native ferns, often confused with Cinnamon Fern. Spore cases occur along center of fertile fronds, giving interrupted appearance. .60¢ each

**Lady Fern** *Athyrium felixfemina*

An easy fern to grow, 2-3 ft., partial shade or full shade. Dry or damp soil. Fronds grow in circular tufts from large rootstock.

**Maidenhair Fern** *Adiantum pedatum*

Slender, wiry stems, topped by delicate, unique fronds, each tiny part like a gingko tree leaf. Likes rotted hardwood leaves. Shade. 55¢ each

**Marsh Fern** *Dryopteris thelypteris*

Medium-sized fern, 10-20 in. Very upright, likes moist meadow lands.

**New York Fern** *Dryopteris novaboracensis*

Medium size, noticeable tapering at both ends of the fronds. Prefers shade, but will grow in sun, 1-2 ft. tall. Damp or dry sites. 30¢ each

**Oak Fern** *Phegopteris dryopteris*

Small, triangular fronds, 4 to 6 in. wide and high, yellow green. Likes shady pine, hemlock and spruce woods. Good ground cover under larger ferns. Spreading rootstock, new fronds all summer.

**Ostrich Fern** *Pteritis nodulosa*

Tall, plume-like fronds in almost a perfect circle. Does very well under cultivation, loves lawns under tall trees. 55¢ each

Except where noted

Large 60¢ Medium 45¢ Small 40¢

<b>Polypody Fern</b>	<i>Polopodium vulgare</i>
A small evergreen fern, used in indoor dishes. 3-6 in. Shade. Forms mats on rocks.	
<b>Purple Cliff Brake</b>	<i>Pellaea atropurpurea</i>
Leathery-leaved, long, slender, blue-green fronds. Prefers rock niches, especially limestone, evergreen. At its best in winter. 4-10 in. long. Pinnules heart-shaped at base.	55¢ each
<b>Rattlesnake Fern</b>	<i>Botrychium virginianum</i>
Occurs in dry, open woods. Triangular fronds, finely cut, delicate 1-2 ft. tall.	55¢ ea.
<b>Royal Fern</b>	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
Either moist or dry sites, sun or shade, but best grown in partial shade, where some dampness. Graceful, wide spreading, 2-3 ft. tall.	60¢ each
<b>Sensitive Fern</b>	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>
One of the easiest to grow, good cover for bare spots, 8-16 in., spreads rapidly.	30¢
<b>Spinulose Fern</b>	<i>Dryopteris spinulosa</i>
Medium size. Extensively used with cut flowers. Shade to partial shade.	55¢ each
<b>Spleenwort, Ebony</b>	<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i>
Shaded rocks, especially limestone. Excellent for indoor dishes. Evergreen sterile fronds, 4-8 inches. Sun or shade.	55¢
<b>Spleenwort, Silvery</b>	<i>Athyrium acrostichoides</i>
Fruit dots on back of fronds have a silvery sheen. Two to three feet tall. Roots spread moderately. Rich, moist woods sites; likes vicinity of shaded streams and swamps.	55¢ each

**Walking Fern** *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*

Has a fascinating way of producing new plants by growing from the leaf tips. Some shade, prefers limestone rocks. 4-12 in. We send small piece of limestone with each plant; place under roots. 55¢ each

**Woodsia, Common, Blunt-lobed Woodsia**

*Woodsia obtusa*

Bright sun to partial shade. Usually occurs on rocks. 6-20 in.

**Woodsia, Rusty**

*Woodsia ilvensis*

A dry rock fern that likes open sun. Plant in rock crevices with a tiny bit of soil.

50¢ each

## PLANTING HINTS

### FERNS

Don't plant any of the ferns deep. They want their crowns slightly above the soil surface. Because they grow so near the top they will have to be pressed down the first spring or two because of frost heave; eventually they get a firm hold and stay down themselves.

### ROCK FERNS

Ferns such as the Polypody should be held in place for a few weeks until they have had a chance to get a toehold without their roots drying out. This is easily done by placing a few small stones on them. Hold a fern in a rock crevice with a small stone until it has taken hold.

## ACID SOIL

We make no claim as to the success that you may expect from the acid soil plants. These are all difficult to grow except for folks who have a *green thumb* and a working knowledge of woodland soils. We sell them to you in good faith, assuming that you won't order acid soil plants unless you have a suitable place for them. If you haven't the right soil you can prepare it with just a little trouble. Set aside a specific bed, in a dense shady to broken shady spot; if possible outline it with small logs or boards to keep the soil from washing out. Mix into the surface two inches of soil a liberal quantity of decomposing, well-rotted if possible, pine needles and oak leaves, and rotting pine, cedar and hemlock stumps, logs and their bark. The more hemlock materials you can get the better. A small bed will take at least two bushels of this material. If it isn't rotted, the bed should sit for at least a year before transplanting acid soil plants into it. But such fussing is worth the trouble, for fair to excellent results can be expected. You can start with a small bed and enlarge it each year. Goldthread, Clintonia, and Arbutus will thrive in it. The Painted Trilliums will do well, if the acid material goes down at least six inches; plant their bulbs three to four inches deep.

Stop in and register in the

Cedar-walled Gift & Garden Shop

Books - Garden Items - Cards - etc.

## THE CHANCES OF SURVIVAL

May we suggest, in the interest of conservation, that you buy at least three of one kind of wildflower. When you buy only one of a kind, cross pollination cannot take place. Also, it has been our experience that wildflowers seem to want the company of their own kind. One lone plant either doesn't live long or it survives in a weak sort of way, even in the best habitat. Two do a little better, but still not as well as they should. A cluster of no less than three seems to be the best assurance of survival, assuming, of course, that other factors are suitable such as soil, moisture and shade conditions.

If your plant budget is limited, it is better to buy three or more of one or two kinds now, and add to your variety later, than to buy one of six different kinds. We have no rules about this; you are free to make your own choice. But for the sake of the wildflowers and their future, this is our advice.

## WILDFLOWER SEEDS

Many requests come in for wildflower seeds. But we make no attempt to carry them for many and justifiable reasons. Very few wildflower seeds produce plants which will develop blossoms in less than three years. Most of these seeds take their time germinating, often not sprouting for three or four or even more years. Once they do sprout they take that many more years to reach blossoming size. They are children of Nature, untamed like the

cultivated garden seeds; and Nature is never in a hurry. Some of the Ladyslippers, for instance, don't reach blossoming stage until twelve years after the seeds germinate and that's not counting how long it takes for the seeds to make up their minds to sprout. Experiments with wild seeds have shown that they remain viable in the soil for at least 53 years.

To add to the difficulties, the seeds must be protected from small wild rodents, from drying out, drowning, or blowing away over the years. Soil acidity, moisture and light conditions must be right for germinating or the seeds will wait yet another year. Only botanists and nursery people usually have such patience and can give the necessary care.

Some concerns do offer wildflower seeds. We have tried them and found they are weed species such as clover, the hawkweeds, Queen Anne's lace, the goldenrods and field dasies. The only satisfactory way we know of obtaining the desirable decorative wildflowers is to buy the plants. Then you know what you have, and you don't wait a decade for them.

We can get Fringed Gentian seeds for those who have their hearts set on them. But Fringed Gentians are biennial. They don't blossom the first year; once they do that is the end. But, the seeds sometimes sit for 20 years without germinating; sometimes they sprout the first or second year. They are so unsatisfactory you would do better to spend your money on gas to drive to their natural habitats and admire them.

Ruth Hardy's  
Red Cedar Wildflower Nursery  
FALLS VILLAGE, CONN.

Mr. Ralph R. Shaw  
Tiburonian  
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